

NEWS RELEASE

June 16, 2004 11:30 p.m.

Contact: David Boyd, Fire Information Officer
(435) 688-3303, C: (435) 680-0814

Jodi Hamel, Fire Information Officer
(435) 688-3333

Lightning sparks fires near southern Utah communities

St. George – Lightning sparked several fires about 7 p.m. Wednesday near the southern Utah communities of Brookside and Dammeron Valley, about 14 miles north of St. George. Some residents of the small community of Brookside were evacuated, but wildland and structure firefighters kept flames from reaching any structures.

The two fires together are called the Dammeron Complex, which has burned an estimated 1,000 acres. Flames burned across a powerline, causing power outages throughout Washington County.

Several hundred firefighters from state and federal agencies, municipal fire departments and local fire departments teamed on the fire. Two single engine air tankers and a helicopter also worked the fire. Firefighters continued working through the night. More resources were scheduled to arrive Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Utah Hill Fire 10 miles west of St. George was contained at 8 p.m. Wednesday. The 80 firefighters who worked that fire were dispatched to the Dammeron Complex Fire.

To receive the latest updates on these fires, the public can call (435) 688-3333 in St. George and (435) 865-4696 in Cedar City. Additional fire information is available at www.utahfireinfo.gov